

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

East Germany

COUNTRY

TOPIC Finow AirfieldEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 31 May 1955 25X1REFERENCES PAGES 6 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1REMARKS 25X1

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Finow airfield between 11 March and 10 April 1955:

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11 or 12 March. Shortly after the take-off, a MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 crashed on Biesenthaler Strasse. Many soldiers rushed to the scene of accident. The pilot was killed.

21 March. From 0900 to 1500, about 30 take-offs were made by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s which assembled in formations of four and practiced formation flying.

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22 and 23 March. No air activity was observed.

24 March. Between 0900 and 1600, about 20 take-offs were made by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s.

25 March. From 1100 to 1700, about 15 swept-back jet fighters took off and practiced individual local flying.

26 March. Between 0800 and 1200, about 10 take-offs were made by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s which made local flights.

4 April. No air activity was observed.

5 April. After 1300, about 6 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s took off and practiced flying in elements of two.

6 April. After 1200, about 15 swept-back jet fighters practiced individual and formation flying in elements of two. A total of 58 to 60 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s, 2 biplanes and 1 twin-engine transport were parked at the field. 1

10 April. About 61 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s, 2 Po-2s and 1 twin-engine aircraft were observed at the field.

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2. Radio and radar installations

A model AA 4 MK 3 radar set which was installed in the ground and surrounded by an earth wall and a Fishnet-type set were observed south of the runway. The roof of the radio truck projected beyond the earth wall by about 1 meter.

3. AA

At 1700 on 6 April and at 1130 on 10 April, 6 x 37-mm AA guns were seen in the AA gun emplacement in the southeastern corner of the field.

4. Air activity and aircraft observed between 15 March and 19 April:

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15 March. At 0900 and from 1150 to 1220, it was observed from Eberswalde that a piston-type aircraft circled in or above the clouds.

16 March. No air activity was observed.

17 March. A MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 took off and circled several times over Eberswalde. Between 1430 and 1745, a MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 made individual local flights and flights in formations of 3 and 4.

18 March. Between 1200 and 1710, there was air activity by swept-back jet fighters.

19 March. Air activity was conducted by swept-back jet fighters from 1030 to 1700.

19 March. At 1430, about 67-MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s and 1 Po-2 were observed at the field.¹

20 March. Between 1100 and 1530, about 10 individual take-offs and landings were made by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s as was observed from Eberswalde.

21 March. No air activity was observed.

8 April. No air activity was seen from Eberswalde.

9 April. No flights were observed. At 1000, the 4 swept-back jet fighters of the alert formation were parked on the usual dispersal area about 100 meters north of the intersection between the runways. About 60 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were observed southwest of the flight control station.

10 and 11 April. No air activity was observed from Eberswalde.

12 April. Air activity was heard from Eberswalde between 1000 and 1600.

13 April. No air activity was observed.

15 April. Between 1130 and 1210, it was observed from Eberswalde that 4 individual take-offs and landings were made by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s.

16 April. A Li-2 landed at 1130. A MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 made local flight at 1220.

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17 April. No air activity was observed.

18 April. Between 0930 and 1600, there was flying in elements of two by swept-back jet fighters.

19 April. Between 1125 and 1700, there was the same air activity as on the preceding day. About 62 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were counted on the field.

5. Radio and radar installations

The model AA 4 MK3 set and the Fishnet-type set were still observed south of the intersection of the two runways, and the Token-type set was seen near the Finow Estate.

19 March. The Token-type set was not in operation during air activity. No operating personnel were seen near the set which was guarded by a sentry wearing black-bordered blue epaulets and armed with a carbine. The two umbrella-type antennas were still observed on the barn of Finow Estate.

9 April. The model AA 4 MK3 and Fishnet were still observed near the southern intersection of the two runways. A radar set was located in the former AA gun emplacement west of the hangars. The AA guns were apparently dismantled. 3

16 April. The Token-type set was still observed at triangulation point 71.5 west of Sommerfeld. At 1230, the set was not in operation but was guarded by a sentry wearing black-bordered blue epaulets and armed with a submachine gun.

19 April. At 1400, the Token near Finow Estate was in operation. It was guarded by a sentry wearing black-bordered blue epaulets. Two umbrella-type antennas were still observed on the roof of the barn of Finow Estate. The AA 4 MK3 and Fishnet were seen at their previous location at the southern intersection of the two runways.

6. AA

19 March. The AA gun emplacement about 300 meters southwest of the gap in the fence along the eastern edge of the field was still occupied by 6 x 37-mm AA guns which were covered with tarpaulins.

19 April. About 30 soldiers were drilling with and cleaned AA guns in the AA gun emplacement.

7. Sentries

During the air activity on 18 March, 2 sentries wearing black-bordered blue epaulets and armed with submachine guns were posted at the gap in the fence along Biesenthaler Strasse. The sentry at the main guardhouse wore black-bordered blue epaulets and the sentry in the ammunition depot north of the main guardhouse wore red-bordered black epaulets.

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8. Air activity and aircraft observed between 21 and 30 March:

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On 21, 28 and 30 March, a total of 59 to 64 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s, 1 Yak-11 and 5 Po-2s were observed at the field. Between 0800 and 1500 on 23 March, individual take-offs were made by 15 to 18 Li-2s at intervals of 25 to 30 minutes. The aircraft headed west but their return was not observed.² From 0800 to 1500 on 26 and 29 March, swept-back jet fighters made approach flights at a sleeve target without firing. The target was towed by a MiG-15 or U-MiG-15.

9. AA and radar

20 March. At 1430, a Kniferest-type radar set was observed in the vacated AA [REDACTED] the eastern [REDACTED] observed. [REDACTED] were still available.

21 March. At 1630, no change was observed at Finow Estate. The farm house was occupied by air force personnel wearing black-bordered light blue epaulets. An umbrella-type antenna was observed on the roof of the barn. The mobile radio installation west of the garage was no longer observed. A Token-type set mounted on a trailer was observed on an artificial elevation about 30 meters west of the bunker just east of Finow Estate. A cable 3 to 4 cm in diameter and a bundle of 2 or 3 thin cables extended from the set into the bunker. The set did not rotate. An emplacement for a searchlight was prepared south of the bunker about 50 meters south of the road. It was previously observed that this searchlight was parked there only during night flying activity. The antenna of a Fishnet-type set was seen about 200 meters east of the bunker. Next to the Fishnet were 2 wooden masts 10 meters high, not braced and interconnected by an antenna. A lead-in cable was not observed.

10. Installations at the airfield and its vicinity

Many aircraft [REDACTED] the northern edge [REDACTED] runway end and extending to Biesenthaler Strasse. Eight revetments were seen along the southern edge of the field. Of the 4 railroad tracks 500 meters southwest of Schoepfurther Strasse [REDACTED] dismantled. A flat loading [REDACTED] existed.

A billeting area for Soviet Air Force personnel, which was surrounded by a board fence, was in the southwestern quarter of Finow, including Pappel Allee, August Bebel Strasse and Post Strasse. The fence extended along Schoepfurther Strasse, continued between Post Strasse and Franz Bruening Strasse to the south as far as Biesenthaler Strasse, along this road to the railroad line leading to Eberswalde. A slightly elevated area covered with wood and surrounded by a fence was located in the triangle formed by tracks west of Biesenthaler Strasse along the southwestern edge of Finow. Several sheds including some underground installations, presumably an ammunition dump, were located in this area. A Soviet sentry was posted on the highest point of the elevation.

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About 100 meters south of the second railroad crossing, when seen from the town, a road branched off to the northwest at a right angle. This road was blocked by a barrier and guarded by sentries wearing black-bordered light blue epaulets. Barracks were located on both sides of this road. About 100 meters farther south began the board fence along Biesenthaler Strasse on the western side of the field. A brick building with a red tile roof was located in the northeastern corner of the fenced-in area. The main guardhouse was about 50 meters farther south. After the gap in the fence, the fence extended along Biesenthaler Strasse to a point about 30 meters to the west of the so-called "Schwarzer Weg" which runs from Schwarzer Weg to the northwest and crossed Biesenthaler Strasse. It was observed at this corner of the field.

The zeroing-in and firing ranges in Jagen (forest sub-district) 185 were no longer in existence. A narrow piece of wood 30 to 50 meters deep was only observed between the airfield and Schwarzer Weg. At the point about 30 meters in front of Schwarzer Weg, the fence bent to the northwest and ran parallel to Schwarzer Weg. A brick building with a red tile roof was located in this curve of the fence.

At 1730 on 28 March, it was observed that a row of 5 lamps arranged perpendicular to the runway marked the western end of the runway. An additional 5 lamps on poles, the height of which increased toward the

[REDACTED]

Motor vehicles were parked in a large cantonment southwest of Finow railroad station.

New target ranges with 3 traverses were located in the middle of Jagen 245 about 100 meters south of the railroad line.⁴ The old target ranges were still located in Jagen 246.

11. Tank installation

The shunting switch for the first railroad siding leading to the field was located in line with August Bebel Strasse. This side track ran parallel to the main railroad line almost through the entire curve, then turned and extended straight to the field. A railroad tank car on the siding was being drained. The tank car was connected to a line strung on poles about 4 meters high which extended across a road just south of the track to a point about 50 meters south of the road. There the line bent to the east and, after a stretch of 10 meters, terminated in a heap of raised earth.

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13. At 1920 on 3 April, it was noted that the radar set on the northwestern edge of Sommerfelde was no longer illuminated by searchlights from all sides.

14. Radio and radar installations

8 April. A Dumbo-type set was observed about 500 meters south of, and at a right angle to, the Finow-Schoepfurth road near kilometer marker 6.1. A radio installation of 2 masts and 2 radio trucks were seen about 20 meters from the Dumbo.

12 to 21 April. The two-mast radio installation and 1 radio truck ~~only~~ were ~~only~~ observed.

22 April. A Token-type set and a radio installation of 3 masts were observed in the radar station east of Finow Estate. No Fishnet-type set was seen. Two VHF antennas were still observed on the roof of Finow farm house. A Token and a radio truck with a VHF antenna were seen 100 meters north of Eberswalde-Sommerfelde road about 100 meters west of the edge of Sommerfelde.

1. [REDACTED] Comment. It is believed that Finow airfield is still occupied by 2 fighter regiments and 1 division headquarters. 25X1
2. [REDACTED] Comment. This information has not been confirmed by any other source and therefore appears rather doubtful. 25X1
3. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] the AA gun emplacement west of the hangars was dismantled. 25X1
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4. [REDACTED] Comment. The description of the installations at the airfield agrees with available information. The information that the firing ranges in Jagen 185 were no longer in existence and that new firing ranges were established in Jagen 245 is received for the first time. 25X1
5. [REDACTED] Comment. These sets were apparently erected temporarily for training purposes. 25X1

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